## STATE OF ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF:	) )
Mark J. Aubry (CRD #4396523),	) File Number: 1200042
Aubry Financial Group, LLC	) )

## **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO THE RESPONDENTS:

Mark J. Aubry (CRD# 4396523)

2011 Haver Hill Country Club Park

Normal, IL 61761

Aubry Financial Group, LLC

(CRD# 133362)

2011 Haver Hill Country Club Park

Normal, IL 61761

You are hereby notified that pursuant to Section 11.E of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5] (the "Act") and 14Ill. Adm. Code 130, Subpart K, a public hearing will be held at 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1220, Chicago, Illinois 60602, on the 12th day of September 2013, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, before James L. Kopecky, Esq. or such duly designated Hearing Officer of the Secretary of State.

Said hearing will be held to determine whether an Order shall be entered which would revoke Mark Aubry's registration as investor advisor representative in the State of Illinois and Aubry Financial Group. LLC registration as an investment advisor in the State of Illinois and prohibiting Respondents from selling or offering for sale securities in the State of Illinois and/or granting such other relief as may be authorized under the Act including but not limited to the imposition of a monetary fine in the maximum amount pursuant to Section 11.E of the Act, payable within ten (10) business days of the entry of the Order.

The grounds for such proposed action are as follows:

- 1. Respondent Mark J. Aubry ("Aubry") is an individual with a last known address of 2011 Haver Hill Country Club Park, Normal, IL 61761.
- 2. At all relevant times, Aubry was registered with Aubry Financial Group, LLC as an investor advisory representative and has been registered in that capacity since March 2005. His CRD Number is 4396523.
- 3. Respondent Aubry Financial Group, LLC ("Aubry Financial Group") is a state regulated investor advisor and has been registered in Illinois since March 2005. Its CRD number is 13362. Aubry is the managing director.
- 4. BryGen, LLP is an Illinois Limited Liability Limited Partnership, whose last known address was 1702 Eastland Drive, Suite 202, Bloomington, Illinois 61710. BryGen, LLP was involuntarily dissolved on October 1, 2012. A&E Holdings, LLC is the general partner of BryGen, LLP.
- 5. A&E Holdings, LLC is an Illinois LLC. Aubry is the managing director.
- 6. Investor A is an Illinois resident and was an advisor client of Aubry during all relevant times.
- 7. Investor A in November of 2006 placed \$600,000 dollars with Aubry to manage.
- 8. In the fall of 2009 Aubry recommended to Investor A that she invest in a new telecommunications company called "PosTrack" of which Aubry was the Chairman of the Board. Aubry assured Investor A that the investment was very safe and that she would receive a "big payout in 2-3 years." Investor A invested \$30,000 in PosTrack.
- 9. Furthermore, in December of 2011 Aubry proposed that Investor A loan money to PosTrack that would be paid within 2 weeks and double her return. Based upon this assurance Investor A agreed to loan PosTrack \$30,000. Investor A signed 2 Distribution Requests instructing Trust Company of America to wire funds to BryGen, LLP. One wire transfer was for \$25,000 and the other was for \$5,000. BryGen, LLP, controlled by Aubry, then forwarded the funds to PosTrack. In February 2012, after several requests, Investor A received the executed promissory note with terms different then she was previously told.
- 10. Without informing Investor A, Aubry copied the \$25,000 Distribution Request form referenced above and changed the signature dates to January 9, 2012 and January 25, 2012. He submitted the 2 Distribution Requests to

Trust Company of America, which in turn wired the funds to BryGen, LLP for investment in PosTrack.

- 11. Investor A did not learn of Aubry's actions referenced above until she received a call from Trust Company of America in the first week of February 2012 informing her of the alteration by Aubry to the Distribution Request form she had previously executed.
- 12. In May 2012 PosTrack informed Investor A that it could no longer stay in business.
- 13. In Illinois Investment advisers owe a fiduciary duty to their clients and therefore the investment adviser stands in a special relationship of trust and confidence with its clients. As a fiduciary, an investment adviser has an affirmative duty of care, loyalty, honesty, and good faith to act in the best interests of its clients.
- 14. The transactions detailed above constitutes the offer and sale of a security as those terms are defined in Sections 2 1, 2.5, and 2 5a of the Illinois Securities Law of 1953 [815 ILCS 5/1 et seq.] (the "Act").
- 15. Section 12.F of the Act provides that it shall be a violation of the provisions of this Act for any person to engage in any transaction, practice or course of business in connection with the sale or purchase of securities which works or tends to work a fraud or deceit upon the purchaser or seller thereof
- Section 12.I of the Act provides that it shall be a violation of the provisions of this Act for any person to employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with the sale or purchase of any security, directly or indirectly.
- 17. Section 12.J(1) of the Act provides that it shall be a violation of the Act for any person when acting as an investment advisor, investment advisor representative, or federal covered investment advisor, by any means or instrumentality, directly or indirectly to employ any device, scheme or artifice to defraud any client or prospective client.
- 18. Section 12.J(2) of the Act provides that it shall be a violation of the Act for any person when acting as an investment advisor, investment advisor representative, or federal covered investment advisor, by any means or instrumentality, directly or indirectly to engage in any transaction, practice, or course of business which operates as a fraud or deceit upon any client or prospective client.
- 19. By virtue of the foregoing, Respondents violated their fiduciary duties and Sections 12.F, 12.I, 12 J(1) and 12.J(2) of the Act.

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- Section 8.E(1)(b) of the Act provides, *inter alia*, that the registration of a salesperson, investment advisor or investment adviser representative may be suspended or revoked if the Secretary of State finds that the salesperson or investment adviser representative has engaged in any unethical practice in connection with any security, the offer or sale of securities or in any fraudulent business practice.
- 21. Section 8.E(1)(g) of the Act provides, inter alia, that the registration of a salesperson, investment advisor, or investment adviser representative may be suspended or revoked if the Secretary of State finds that the salesperson, investment advisor, or investment adviser representative has violated any of the provisions of this Act.
- 22. By virtue of the foregoing, the Respondents' registrations as an investment advisor and as an investor advisor representative in the State of Illinois are subject to suspension or revocation pursuant to Sections 8.E(1)(b), and 8.E(1)(g), of the Act.

You are further notified that you are required pursuant to Section 1104 of the Rules to file an answer to the allegations outlined above, a Special Appearance pursuant to Section 1107 of the Rules, or other responsive pleading within thirty (30) days of receipt of this notice. Your failure to do this within the prescribed time shall be deemed an admission of the allegations contained in the Notice of Hearing and waives your right to a hearing.

Furthermore, you may be represented by legal counsel; may present evidence; may cross-examine witnesses and otherwise participate. A failure to appear shall constitute default by you.

The Rules promulgated under the Act and pertaining to Hearings held by the Office of the Secretary of State, Securities Department may be viewed online at <a href="http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/securities/lawrules.html">http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/securities/lawrules.html</a>.

Delivery of notice to the designated representative of any Respondent constitutes service upon such Respondent.

Dated: This 23rd day July 2013

JESSE WHITE
Secretary of State
State of Illinois

## Notice of Hearing

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